BENGALURU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

HAPPY VARAMAHALAKSHMI

TEMP Max 30 | Min 22 | Humidity 81% Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain Sensex 79,105 | Nifty 24,143 | Gold 71,510 | Silver 80,000 | Dollar 83.95 | Euro 91.66 | GBP 106.65

FLORAL FEAST

As city gears up for festivities, a look at spike in prices of flowers that form integral part of celebration

PAGE 2

DISTRESS CALL

Creepy episode at Cubbon Park sparks intense discussion on women's safety in public spaces

PAGE 5

Report submitted to green tribunal shows between Oct 2022 and May 2024, K'taka has made considerable progress as far as municipal solid waste processing goes

ON SOLID WASTE GROUND

Of total wet waste generated in state, BBMP limits contribute to 45%

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A report submitted by the Karnataka government to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) shows considerable improvement in municipal solid waste processing in the state between October 2022 and May 2024.

As per the report, the total waste generated under 316 urban local bodies in the state is 12,140 tonnes per day (TPD).

State of BBMP

Of the total wet waste generated in Karnataka, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike contributes about 45%. A total of 3,025 TPD of wet waste is being generated in BBMP limits out of which 2,150 are being processed, leading to a gap of 875 TPD. Further, 1,925 TPD of dry waste is being generated out of which 650 TPD is being processed leading to a gap of 1,275 TPD.

BBMP has proposed to process dry waste of the total waste generated in the state with material recovery facilities. Refuse derived fuel units are proposed for waste to energy.

"The detailed project report is approved by the state high power committee and submitted to cabinet approval to call a tender. Moreover, 4,750 TPD of construction and demolition waste is being generated, out of which, 1,750 TPD is being processed, leaving a gap of 3,000 TPD. Presently, BBMP has prepared DPR for the project catering to the gap and it is under approval stage," noted the report.

In the state, during October 2022, 5,741 TPD was being processed, leaving a gap of 6,399 TPD. In October 2023, 6,639 TPD were being processed. However, in April 2024, the total processed amount was 7,717 TPD, leaving a gap of 4,423 TPD.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Municipal solid waste processing plant at Seegehalli (File photo)

> "As much as 4,750 TPD of construction and demolition waste is being generated, out of which, 1,750 TPD is being processed, leaving a gap of 3,000 TPD
>
> —State govt report

Imbalance over balance

Conductor's suspension shows BMTC buses still turning battlegrounds over return of remaining change after issue of ticket

Sanjana CS
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru, known for its tech-driven lifestyle is facing growing concern over frequent clashes on BMTC buses over change. It usually is sparked by the conductors' reluctance to return remaining change, sometimes to up to Rs 5.

In a recent incident, a BMTC bus conductor was suspended for allegedly manhandling a passenger, who asked for the remaining balance of Rs 5. The passenger had given a Rs 20 note for a Rs 15 ticket and asked for the Rs 5 back. This request led to a heated argument that escalated into physical aggression, quickly spiraling out of control, creating chaos.

Some commuters, fed up with the recurring incidents, have taken matters into their own hands. They have started recording these clashes and uploading the videos to social media. These clips often go viral, leading to public discussions on platforms like Twitter and other social media channels.

The rise in such recordings is also getting a mixed response. While some see it as a way to hold both passengers and conductors

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Food fest

Calling all foodies in the city! Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, along with Vega City Mall, create a delightful food festival for the residents of Bengaluru to experience the taste of VV Puram Food Street. All foodies are invited to come and enjoy mouth-watering delicacies. **Where: Vega City Mall, BTM Layout; When: August 15 to 18, 11 am to 10 pm**

02 Innocent or not?

Watch "Innocence," a play that tells the story of a man accused of committing a crime, although he is never told about the nature of his offence. He refuses to plead guilty, despite being told by everyone he meets that it is in his best interest to do so. In the end, his innocence does not help him escape the clutches of the law, but neither is the state able to find a shred of evidence to prove his guilt. How will this impasse be resolved?
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: August 16 and 17

03 Run at your pace

Enjoy a day of community spirit by participating in a marathon run hosted by SAP Labs India. Choose your challenge from the 3K, 5K, or 10K run and join the 'SAP Run'. The marathon will start at the SAP Labs India-Bengaluru Campus.
When: August 25, 6 am;
Where: SAP Labs India, Whitefield

Festive cheer lights up B'luru

Markets abuzz with shoppers amidst shortage of flowers, hike in vegetable prices

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

KAUSHIK JN

People shop for their festive needs at KR Market on Thursday

Bengaluru streets are abuzz with a vibrant festive atmosphere as residents eagerly prepare for the Varamahalakshmi festival. Everywhere you look, the city is transformed into a kaleidoscope of colours and fragrances, capturing the essence of this joyous occasion. The streets are lined with stalls overflowing with fresh plantain leaves and flowers, which are an essential part of the traditional decorations. The markets are bustling with a vibrant array of fruits and vegetables. Vendors are showcasing seasonal produce, including apples, oranges, bananas, etc which are integral to the festival's offerings.

Suraksha D, a homemaker, said, "The preparation for Varamahalakshmi is not just a routine but a heartfelt tradition that brings together families and communities. The air is filled with a sense of anticipation and reverence as Bengalureans come together to celebrate this auspicious festival with devotion and joy."

Flower yields are down amid disease outbreak

Flowers play a significant role in the celebrations, adding both beauty and spirituality to the occasion. Bright marigolds, fragrant jasmine, and a variety of other blossoms are being used to create elaborate garlands and decorative arrangements. These floral displays not only enhance the festive spirit but also bring a touch of nature's splendour into every household.

However, the adverse weather conditions, including cloudy skies, intermittent rain, cold winds, and a lack of sunlight, have led to various diseases affecting flowering plants, resulting in a significant decrease in flower production. Dr Swati, an agriculture scientist, said, "The continuous cloudy weather and intermittent rain have led to an increase in fungal diseases (root rot) in flower crops this season. As a result, many farms that had planted flowers have been destroyed. Therefore, it is difficult to get the expected yield of flowers this season."

Chrysanthemums, which account for 60 per cent of the flower demand, are currently facing a severe crisis due to fungal diseases and fire blight. Floriculture is practiced on around 18,000 hectares of land in Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Ramanagar, Tumakuru, and Bengaluru Rural districts, with chrysanth cultivation occupying approximately 8,000 hectares. Despite the good prices fetched by chrysanths this season, the unfavourable weather has led to lower yields, causing substantial financial losses for farmers who had invested heavily in the crop.

Agricultural scientists have been responding to complaints from flower farmers about root rot disease, visiting affected areas, and providing recommendations for precautionary measures. Gayatri, an official, advises farmers to reach out to the horticulture department officials in their respective taluks for further information and guidance.

> **"Farmers were hoping for better prices with the start of Shravan month. However, the disease outbreak has dashed their hopes**
> – Sai Prashanth, a farmer

Sai Prashanth, a farmer, said, "This time, half of the Chrysanthemum plants that were planted have died in the gardens. The plants are dying when they are supposed to bloom. As a result, farmers who invested in lakhs are now facing a situation where they have to suffer losses. Flower farmers get a boost during festivals, with high demand and good prices. Chrysanths are sold for Rs 300 to Rs 400 per kilogram. Currently, in Ashada month, the market price for chrysanthemums is Rs 300 per kg. This is a bumper price for the Ashada month itself. Farmers were hoping for even better prices with the start of Shravan month. However, the disease outbreak has dashed their hopes."

Double trouble

For Bengalureans, this will be a double whammy, as they are already reeling under a hike in vegetable prices. Though vegetable prices have decreased a bit compared to the previous month, some are still sold at higher prices. Bheemappa T, a vegetable trader in the city, said, "Earlier, we were getting a limited supply of vegetables to the city due to drought. However, now, with excess rainfall in the vegetable-growing areas, many of the crops are washed out, and hence the supply is limited. If this continues, we can expect one more round of price hikes."

ISRO to launch earth observation satellite today

The countdown for the launch of India's small rocket (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)) carrying earth observation satellite (EOS-08) and SR-0 satellites belonging to the startup Space Rickshaw will begin at around 2.30 am on Friday, senior officials said.

The countdown for this mission is very short. It will begin at 2.30 am on Friday for the launch at 9.17 am the same day, senior officials told IANS. The mission named SSLV-D3/EOS-08 will be the third and final developmental flight for SSLV, after which the rocket will get into full-fledged operational mode.

On Friday at about 9.17 am, the SSLV with a carrying capacity of 500 kg will blast off laden with the 175.5 kg microsatellite EOS-08 with a life expectancy of one year. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the proposed mission will complete the SSLV Development Project and enable operational missions by the Indian industry and public sector player NewSpace India Ltd.

The SSLV rocket is capable of launching Mini, Micro or Nano satellites into a 500 km planar orbit. Its three stages are powered by solid fuel while the final Velocity Trimming Module is powered by liquid fuel. Just over 13 minutes after the blast off, the rocket will orbit EOS-08 and about three minutes later, the SR-0 will be separated. Both the satellites will separate from the rocket at an altitude of 475 km.

For Space Rickshaw, the SR-0 will be its first satellite. "We will be making six more satellites on a commercial basis," Srimathy Kesan, Co-Founder, Space Rickshaw, and Founder-CEO, Space Kidz India, told IANS. **— IANS**

Stay in your lane: Wrong side is never right

Commuters continue to drive on wrong side; cops take stringent measures

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Whitefield traffic police have now intensified their efforts to curb wrong-side driving on Balagere Main Road and Panathur Main Road. This crackdown follows the recent installation of concrete medians on Balagere Main Road, which aimed to streamline traffic flow. However, despite these measures, many commuters continue to drive on the wrong side, exacerbating traffic congestion and causing dangerous situations on the roads.

In response to this persistent issue, they have announced a series of stringent actions to discourage wrong-side driving. A senior Whitefield traffic police official said, "We've placed medians to prevent wrong-way driving, and we're actively identifying and educating those who violate this rule. While we haven't started seizing vehicles yet, we will do so if dangerous driving is found."

He further said that the police have intensified their efforts over the past week. "Previously, there were no medians. So many motorists used to take the wrong side in a hurry, causing congestion and obstructing oncoming traffic, which can lead to accidents. It's crucial for people to follow traffic rules and not block others, thereby allowing traffic to flow smoothly in both directions," the official added.

To tackle the rampant wrong-way driving in the area, in addition to the usual spot fines, the traffic police also plan to seize vehicles that are caught driving on the wrong side. "These vehicles will be sent to court, where the owners will be required to appear in person to reclaim their vehicles. This process is expected to take at least three to six working days, adding a significant inconvenience to the offenders," said a Mahadevpura Task Force member.

A cop issues a fine to a commuter for driving on the wrong side of Balagere Road

Speaking on the issue, a senior official from the Whitefield traffic police said, "Wrong-side driving is a serious violation that not only disrupts traffic but also poses a risk to the safety of all road users. The commuters should know that this can be very serious. They must stop breaking the traffic rules. For now, we are raising awareness on the issue, and then strict enforcement will be carried out."

A local commuter said, "It's about time the authorities took strong action. Hopefully, this will make the roads safer for everyone. These measures are not just about punishment but also about ensuring the safety and smooth flow of traffic for all."

BM Food & Night Life

Food fest a big hit

Visitors throng the Vega City mall for the Vega City VV Puram Food Festival, jointly organised by Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka. Visitors indulged in a wide array of snacks typically found on VV Puram Street. The event was inaugurated on Thursday and is going on till Sunday

The inaugural day of the Vega City VV Puram Food Festival, jointly organised by Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka, was a resounding success. Visitors indulged in a wide array of snacks typically found on 'VV Puram Street', with a special focus on 10 to 15 varieties of dishes prepared using avarebele, which are sure to tantalise everyone's taste buds.

At the 'Food Festival', several dishes made with avarebele are attracting a large number of customers. Dishes like avare bele holige", vade, bonda, dosa, saaru, shavige baath, idli saaru, uppittu, palav, paddu saaru, and payasa were served hot and fresh, making foodies relish the taste. Additionally, hot and spicy capsicum, potato, mirchi and banana bajjis are making everyone's mouth water. There are also various types of tea, including mango, blueberry, and strawberry tea, which the elderly were seen enjoying. Meanwhile, kids and the youth were seen craving for kulfi flavours like lichi, anjeer, and chocolate. Moreover, dishes like panipuri, Gobi, noodles, donuts, pasta, peri peri sandwich, potato twist, and more are tantalizing the taste buds.

The festival witnessed an overwhelming response on its very first day. By Thursday evening, the venue was teeming with food enthusiasts, leaving hardly any space to stand. TV and film actress Sameeksha, who inaugurated the festival, shared her thoughts, saying, "I'm originally from Shivamogga and wasn't used to street food. But after coming to Bengaluru, I got used to it. VV Puram's street food is my favorite. I invite everyone to come and enjoy the delicious food here." She later visited all the food stalls, savouring avare bele payasa and panipuri, thoroughly enjoying herself.

Visitors to the festival expressed their delight and satisfaction with the event. Raksha, an employee at a private company, shared, "Earlier, a cloth sale fair used to be held here every year. It was enjoyable to just come and see the fair. This time, the Food Festival has been organized, which is delightful. I'm enjoying the taste of all kinds of food." Arati, another employee at a private company, added, "The Food Festival has been organized very well. I'm a vegan foodie. All the food items I like are available here, and I'm happy to savor them."

The Vega City VV Puram Food Festival is open to the public free of charge and will continue until August 18, from 11 AM to 10 PM, at Vega City Mall on Bannerghatta Road.

IN BRIEF

Honey trap scheme: 3 arrested

The Sampigehalli police have arrested three people, including a woman, for operating a honey trap scheme. The main accused, Najma Kausar, who lived in Agrahara Layout, used her charm to trick men, along with her partners, Khaleel and Mohammad Ashik, planned and carried out a plot to deceive men.

It all started with a missed call. When the victim, a 22-year-old food delivery boy named Manu, called back, he ended up talking to Kausar, who seemed friendly. Over the next few days, they exchanged messages, and Manu even lent her Rs 1,400 through a digital payment app. However, on the night of August 8, Kausar invited Manu to her house and tried to seduce him. At that moment, Khaleel and Ashik suddenly entered the room, accusing Manu of trying to assault her. They threatened to file a false rape case against him unless he paid them. When Manu explained that he didn't have money, they hit him with a metal object and stole his mobile phone. Kausar, who is separated from her husband, had been involved in similar fraud schemes before, with help from Khaleel, her stepbrother, and Ashik. **–BMB**

'Suicide abetment' charges stay

The Karnataka High Court has rejected a man's plea to dismiss a case of abetment of suicide filed against him after his partner allegedly took her own life due to his refusal to marry her.

According to the complaint filed by the deceased woman's father in 2022, his daughter who had been in a relationship with the man for five years was discovered dead, along with a note holding the man accountable for her death. The man's counsel contended that the woman had been suffering from depression and that the death note alone was insufficient to prove that he had abetted her suicide. Conversely, the opposing counsel argued that the man had harassed the woman and that there were phone conversations and messages implicating him. In the order delivered on July 30, Justice Krishnan Natarajan's bench noted, "She has categorically stated in the death note that he has suspected her character. This clearly reveals that the petitioner abused her with criminal intention, and the note details clearly reveal that there was conversation between the deceased and the accused, even prior to the suicide." Consequently, the bench dismissed the man's petition. **–BMB**

BBMP's mini sweepers to tackle footpath filth

Palike extends mechanical cleaner to sidewalks and narrow lanes for improved cleanliness, with view to address dust pollution and enhancing air quality with new compact machines

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Until now, mechanical sweepers have been used to clean roads. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is now set to extend its use to footpaths, sidewalks, and narrow lanes to improve city cleanliness. While mechanised sweepers have been employed for main roads, the BBMP has identified a gap in maintaining pedestrian areas. To address this, the BBMP procures specialised machinery to sweep and wash footpaths and sidewalks.

A BBMP official said, "The initiative aims to provide cleaner and more accessible walking spaces for citizens. We are stepping up its efforts to clean the city's congested footpaths, sidewalks, and narrow lanes. While large mechanised sweepers have been deployed to tackle the dust and garbage on main roads, the civic body has identified a pressing need for smaller, more agile machines to address the challenges posed by the city's pedestrian areas. To overcome this, the BBMP is inviting bids from private companies to design, supply, operate, and maintain specialised cleaning equipment. The successful bidder will be responsible for ensuring clean and accessible footpaths across the city for one year. The BBMP will cover the operational costs of the machinery."

BBMP's large sweepers clean main roads, but narrow lanes and footpaths need smaller machines; minisweepers will tackle these areas

The BBMP will introduce a fleet of compact sweeper machines. This decision addresses growing public concern over deteriorating air quality, largely due to unchecked construction, demolition, and road repair activities. Residents have been reporting increased respiratory issues and discomfort from persistent dust particles. The fine dust, stirred up by traffic, has infiltrated homes and workplaces, significantly affecting the quality of life.

> **"Newly designed mini-sweepers are expected to be more manoeuvrable and efficient in cleaning spaces like footpaths and sidewalks** – Official

"While the BBMP has been deploying larger mechanised sweepers to clean the main roads, the need for smaller, more agile machines to tackle the narrow lanes, footpaths, and sidewalks has become apparent. These areas have been particularly challenging to clean effectively due to their size and the obstacles present. The newly designed mini-sweepers are expected to be more manoeuvrable and efficient in cleaning these spaces, contributing to a cleaner and healthier urban environment. The BBMP is currently in the process of finalising the specifications for these machines and is expected to float tenders for their procurement shortly. The civic body is hopeful that this initiative will not only improve air quality but also enhance the overall cleanliness of the city, making it a more pleasant place to live and work", added an official.

New covers and locks secure heritage lamp posts

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The open electric junction boxes on the heritage lamp posts along Dr BR Ambedkar Veedhi have become a nuisance and an eyesore for pedestrians. There are over 40 heritage lamp posts on both sides of the road, and like other street light poles in the city, these posts have uncovered junction boxes. This lack of covers poses a danger to pedestrians and children and has led to the junction boxes being used as garbage dumping spots on one of the city's most important roads.

The electrical department of Vidhana Soudha has begun cleaning the open electrical junction boxes on heritage lamp posts. To prevent waste and plastic from being dumped into these boxes, the department has hired a contractor to install covers on the electrical junction boxes of all 45 heritage lamp posts.

"People, especially those who spend some time near Vidhana Soudha during the weekends, are to be blamed for dumping garbage. Now, we have decided to equip a lock to each of the covers fixed to the open electrical junction box. It will avoid miscreants removing the covers," said Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) of Vidhana Soudha.

Left: A worker drilling a hole on the street light pole on Dr BR Ambedkar Veedhi near Vidhana Soudha; Right One of the covers with a lock fixed on the electrical junction box of the street lights

The cost of the covers and other repair work is estimated at Rs 5 lakh. Pedestrians have praised the Vidhana Soudha electrical department for installing covers on all the electrical junction boxes. "This initiative not only adds value to the heritage lamp posts but also protects unwary children becoming victims of electrical shock," said Nanjunda Swamy, a pedestrian. Expressing concern about the missing covers on electrical junction boxes, pedestrian Ganesh K suggested that the police need to monitor and address the miscreants responsible for their removal. "I do not know what miscreants or thieves are going to gain by removing or stealing the covers of electrical junction boxes. It seems that there is nothing immune to theft in the city. Now, the government has spent money to provide covers to the electrical junction boxes," said Ganesh.

Shivanna S, a pedestrian, said "It is our responsibility to protect and save these heritage lamp posts from miscreants and thieves. I appeal to the police to keep a vigil on miscreants," said Shivanna.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Unfinished path
Jayanagar

In New Gurappanapalya, near Jayanagar 4th Main Road, the BWSSB pipeline work was completed in April. However, the road resurfacing has not yet been finished.

Garbage dump
Medahalli

Garbage is being dumped opposite the BWSSB water supply office in the Medahalli Lake area on Old Madras Road, with no authority stepping in to clean it.

Road blocked
Vidyaranyapura

Vidyaranyapura Main Road is partially blocked, and the footpath has been dug up for nearly a year due to construction, endangering traffic and pedestrians.

DISTRESS AT CUBBON PARK

Post on pervert reveals chinks in park armour

Security lack leaves women vulnerable; several visitors recount similar horrors

Sanjana CS
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

On a day when the city celebrated its 78th Independence Day with the spirit of freedom, a post on Instagram sparked a debate about how free and safe are women in public spaces. Cubbon Park found itself at the centre of the disturbing conversation after a post recounted the experience of a young woman who faced harassment while trying to enjoy the park's serene environment.

The post detailed that the woman had gone to the park with her friend for a quiet afternoon, but the outing turned unsettling as she encountered a man allegedly flashing and masturbating nearby. Despite security guards being stationed near the park's entrance, they were nowhere to be found when she needed assistance. However, she chased him away.

"We have witnessed many such incidents over the years, especially on Saturdays and Sundays when guards are often absent. In these situations, they ignore what happens inside the park, even if sexual harassment occurs," said S Umesh, president of the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association.

Resonating with Umesh, many people recounted similar stories in the comments section of the original post. " I am not sure if this was the same guy. There are multiple creeps like this at Cubbon Park," wrote a netizen.

Another user described an encounter with a young man who regularly follows women around the park. "It's quite disturbing. He targets women who are alone and hovers around them."

The problem, as many pointed out, seems to be the lack of adequate security. On weekends, when the park is most crowded, the presence of security personnel is notably lacking.

Guards who are supposed to patrol the park allegedly neglect their duties, opting instead to focus on collecting fees from vendors stationed near the gates.

After the Instagram post was brought to the attention of police, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for the Central Police Station responded to the concerns.

KAUSHIK JN

A worker carries out fumigation at Cubbon Park late on Wednesday evening

> **We've been filing cases for years, demanding changes, but only the security agencies have changed, not the situation nor security**
>
> –S Umesh, Cubbon Park Walkers' Association

"We are enquiring about this incident, and we encourage anyone who experiences similar incidents to file a complaint. In case of an emergency, please seek help by dialing 122 or contacting the Rani Channamma Pade," he said.

Meanwhile, a visitor to Cubbon Park expressed frustration, saying, "We can't even sit in a public park and read a book in peace. Yes, we're a free country, but women didn't have true freedom then, and we don't have it now. We're constantly living in fear. It's truly disgusting."

Umesh, along with other concerned citizens, has been calling for better security measures for years, but to little avail. "We've been filing cases for years, demanding changes, but only the security agencies have changed, not the situation nor security. Numerous complaints have been filed against officials of the Horticulture department for their lack of seriousness, but nothing has come of it," said Umesh.

How danger spikes for dogs

Animal feeders rush to rescue of dog found stuck to spiked fence opposite main fountain

A dog was found stuck to a spiked fence at a horticulture nursery opposite the main fountain in Cubbon Park early on Thursday morning. The security personnel discovered the 2-year-old dog that is called Blackie bleeding and in deep distress at 6.30 am. The spikes had pierced Blackie's hind leg leading to blood loss, but no bones were broken.

Sunita Kumar, a member of the "We Love Cubbon Park" group, sprang into action after receiving the distress call. "I reached out to many rescuers but I could not get through any one. Then I contacted Jyothi and Yogesh, who feed around 50-100 dogs in the park every morning. Yogesh answered the phone, and we rushed to the park."

Upon reaching the site, Yogesh climbed onto the structure and managed to lift the injured dog to safety. The team then transported Blackie to Cessna Lifeline Veterinary Hospital in Domlur for urgent medical attention. "The skin was ripped off, but there were no fractures," Sunita confirmed.

This is not the first time such an incident here. "A few months ago, a dog was impaled by a spear, injuring its stomach," Sunita recalled. She expressed concern over the park's grill fencing with spikes, which has replaced the chicken wire that previously lining much of the park's boundary. The recent changes, implemented as part of the Smart City project, have resulted in spiked grills being installed across the park, including around Bal Bhavan and other areas. Only the dog park remains free of these dangerous barriers. The spike-topped fences pose a serious threat to the park's animals, especially the many park dogs that roam the area.

"Initially, we had suggested that the spears be removed and replaced with safer alternatives, but nothing has been done. I have myself rescued three dogs in the past from similar situations near the bandstand area." Sunita said.

> **Until recently, park had chicken wire fencing, but under Smart City project, spiked grills were installed**

The horticulture nursery's unfinished water tank, where Blackie was found, also raised concerns. "The tank is not only unsafe due to the spikes, but it is also filled with filthy water," Sunita noted.

The We Love Cubbon Park group is planning to take a survey of dangerous spots and bring it to the notice of the horticulture department.

–Iffath Fathima

RG Kar case: IISc in solidarity

Over 600 students of IISc gathered for a candlelight vigil and a march demanding justice for the victim of the RG Kar Medical College case over Wednesday night and Thursday.

"We gathered for a candlelight vigil and a march in solidarity with the victim in the RG Kar Medical College case. Today, at 10 am, we had a demonstration in front of the main building of IISc. After the I-Day celebrations, we had a sit in protest, and then planned for future initiatives to take up in this regard, including Twitter storms and signature campaigns," Anu, IISc UG student, one of the organisers said.

"This heinous crime lays bare the misogynist society that we still live in despite all proclamations of the government and the powers that be otherwise," he added.

BM Food & Night Life

Patriotic fervour grips Bengaluru

KAUSHIK JN

Independence Day celebrations at Manekshaw Parade ground

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
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The city was alive with patriotic fervour as tricolours adorned every corner. Schools across the region hosted walkathons with children proudly carrying the national flag, while others dressed up as freedom fighters. Bikers also joined in the celebrations, participating in long rallies with Indian flags to commemorate Independence Day. The central Independence Day ceremony

took place at the Manekshaw Parade Ground, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hoisted the national flag. In his speech, he remarked, "Over the past 77 years, Karnataka has played a significant role in advancing the nation in line with the vision of our freedom fighters. Our Constitution advocates for building the nation on the pillars of liberty, equality, justice, and fraternity."

Guarantee schemes and govt initiatives

CM Siddaramaiah reiterated the continuation of guarantee schemes, stating, "Our government, which assumed power in 2023 with a clear mandate, has taken significant steps in the past fifteen months. We have enacted exclusive Acts for the welfare of workers in the motor transport sector, cinema, and cultural activities. Gig workers and newspaper distributors now receive accident and medical insurance benefits. Under the Karnataka Residential Education Institution Society, we aim to establish a residential school in every hobli. This year, 20 new residential schools and 295 post-metric hostels have been sanctioned to support higher education for students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and Minority Communities. Additionally, 20% reservation and direct admission opportunities have been provided in Ekalavya Model Residential Schools for students from the most backward nomadic and semi-nomadic communities among the Scheduled Tribes. The capacity in Maharshi Valmiki Tribal Residential Schools has been increased from 25 to 40 students, and construction has begun for permanent buildings to replace rented accommodations for 30 student hostels."

Addressing human-wildlife conflict and economic growth

Siddaramaiah also highlighted the challenge of human-wildlife conflict, noting that the government has initiated the construction of 120 km of railway barricades and established seven elephant task forces and two leopard task forces. Recently, Bengaluru hosted an international conference on preventing human-elephant conflicts. The government has launched multi-dimensional programs to boost economic growth across industries, agriculture, infrastructure, and education. Karnataka has attracted Rs. 54,427 crore in Foreign Direct Investment during 2023-24 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 13 industries, promising Rs 42,915 crore in investments and approximately 22,600 jobs. The Karnataka Clean Mobility Policy 2024-29 aims to draw Rs. 50,000 crore investments in clean mobility and create about one lakh new jobs. The Krishi Navodyama scheme has promoted 40 agri-startups to foster entrepreneurship and employment in rural areas. A Skill Advisory Committee has been set up to align skill training with industry demands.

Organ donation tribute

Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road commemorated the late Nagaraja, a cadaver organ donor, during their Independence Day program. Mr Nagaraja, a 59-year-old experienced farmer from Kolar, suffered a catastrophic intracranial haemorrhage that led to severe brain damage and eventual brain death. In a remarkable act of selflessness, his family chose to donate his organs, demonstrating their commitment to saving lives despite their profound grief. The ceremony honoured Mr Nagaraja's generosity and recognised his son, Sunil Kumar K N, and his family for their courageous decision and steadfast support throughout the donation process. During the event, Dr H Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospitals, emphasised the importance of organ donation, referring to it as "the true gift of life." He urged others to consider pledging their organs, highlighting that organ donation offers recipients a new lease on life and represents the best treatment for patients with organ failure.

BBMP sends notices to 277 banner printers

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have been reporting their efforts to remove illegally placed flexes and banners, submitting affidavits to the High Court detailing the measures taken and penalties imposed. Despite these efforts, some individuals continue to put up illegal flexes and banners. Recently, the BBMP Chief Commissioner filed an affidavit with the High Court outlining measures to prevent unauthorised banners and flexes in the city. The Chief Commissioner stated that instructions have been given to printers to comply with regulations, warning that any unauthorised printing discovered during surprise inspections by officials or police will result in legal action. The affidavit noted that printing banners and flexes without permission violates Sections 158 and 307 of the BBMP Act.

The affidavit claims that the BBMP has formed 196 enforcement teams, identified 282 printing presses, and served notices to 277 of them. It reports raids on three printing presses in the Mahadevapura Zone and one in the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, where 40 kg of printing material was seized. Additionally, 9,761 illegal banners and flexes were removed, 194 complaints were filed to register FIRs, 154 FIRs were registered, and Rs 309,400 was collected in penalties from violators.

In the affidavit, the BBMP Chief Commissioner stated that public involvement in reporting illegal flexes and banners was encouraged through the 1533 Sahaya helpline. BBMP enforcement teams are addressing complaints from citizens about illegal banners and flexes. Additionally, instructions were issued to BBMP revenue inspectors, assessors, and junior engineers to collaborate with local police in conducting night patrols to prevent illegal banner and flex installations during the night. In one of the orders passed by the High Court on August 2, 2023, the court noticed that if putting up unauthorised and illegal hoardings continues and such a state of affairs is reported after three weeks, the authorities would be liable to be fined in respect of each hoarding or flex to the extent of Rs 1,00,000. This order was highlighted in the subsequent order dated January 18, 2024.

A banner put up at Vignananagar bus stand

The High Court has adjourned the hearing of the case to September 25. While posting the proceedings to the next date as above, the High Court emphasised that authorities must not be complacent in monitoring and preventing illegal hoardings and flexes. The court stressed the importance of ensuring pedestrian safety and regulating traffic, especially during the monsoon season.

The High Court said that if any major flaw or dereliction of duty by the Corporation or Police Department officials is observed, petitioners may file an appropriate application to bring the issue to the Court's attention. "The issue of monitoring, controlling and preventing the putting up of illegal flexes and advertisements in the areas other than the City of Bengaluru and the parts of the State shall be addressed in the subsequent hearings," the High Court said.

Sudden transfer of 86 staffers causes unease on BU campus

Many transferred employees refuse to report to new assignments, submit memo to registrar

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Bangalore University (BU) has recently implemented a large-scale transfer of 86 staff members, including officials, employees, and contract workers, to various departments with the aim of streamlining administration. However, many of the affected employees, dissatisfied with the transfer decisions, have yet to report to their new assignments and have instead submitted a memorandum to the university's registrar requesting the cancellation of these transfers.

Sources said that the transferred staff members are from diverse departments within the Jnanabharathi campus, following a university policy that permits transfers only within departments since the trifurcation of the institution. The registrar (administration), Shaik Latif, had carried out surprise inspections and discovered that numerous employees had remained in the same department for extended periods. Consequently, these employees, along with officials and contract workers, were moved to different departments. The transfer of employees from high-pressure departments such as finance and examination has been a major source of dissatisfaction.

Transferred staff members are from various departments within the Jnanabharathi campus

The staff's grievances include allegations that transfers were executed without consulting the relevant departments, that individuals transferred only three months ago have been reassigned again, and that the sudden moves hinder their ability to adapt and perform effectively in new roles. Employees claim that the transfers overlook their interests and force them into unfamiliar departments, complicating their work. In response, the Bangalore University Employees' Association has requested the registrar to reconsider and withdraw the transfer orders. While some employees have accepted their new positions, others are awaiting a reversal of the transfer decisions. In defence of the transfers, university officials describe them as necessary staff adjustments to address staffing imbalances across departments. They assert that some employees have already transitioned to their new roles, with more expected to follow.

However, when contacted, Lateef stated, "While we are not opposed to transfers, the process used—specifically, moving employees without adhering to established rules or transferring those who have been in their roles for only three months—is problematic. We have asked for these issues to be addressed." Countering this, R Rangadhama, Secretary, Bangalore University Staff Association, remarked, "We have no objections to transfers in principle, but the execution has been flawed. Transferring employees who have been in their departments for as little as three months is concerning. We have requested that these issues be rectified."

5-star hotel near Jog falls worries conservationists

Hotel project was rejected once in 2014, and is being reapplied again

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Conservationists and locals are sceptical of a proposal submitted by the Jog Management Authority to Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) for constructing an eco-tourism, five-star hotel near Jog Falls in the Western Ghats.

The structure has been proposed to be built in place of the existing PWD (Public Works Department) Guest House in Sharavathi Valley in Shivamogga district and requires the diversion of more than 2.3 hectares of forest land. The application submitted on the Parivesh portal also mentions that the project requires no clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Wildlife Protection Act since it is not located in any Protected Area or Eco-sensitive zone.

The eco-tourism project was first brought into motion in 2014 when the Jog Management Authority approached the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), seeking the diversion of 0.4046 hectares of reserve forest land. However, MoEF&CC rejected the proposal citing its irrelevance.

The user agency approached the ministry again in 2021, seeking permission for the diversion of 0.8536 hectares of forest land in Nadawada Talakalale Village, Sagar Taluk, Shivamogga District; this time for the construction of a five-star hotel in place of the existing PWD guest house.

The application, dated June 2021, contained justification for locating this project on forest land and stated that the five-star hotel/resort would be constructed in its place under the scope of Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT). Following the application, objections were raised by locals and conservationists, forcing MoEF&CC to refer the matter to KFD, and the project did not move forward.

Hotel has been proposed to be built in the place of the existing PWD Guest House in Sharavathi Valley

> **"If a development project has been declined once by MOEF&CC, it should not be allowed to reapply for approval with the Ministry or forest department**
>
> –Local

As per the Parivesh website, Jog Management Authority, for the third time, has sought permission for the same project. However, the total land diversion required has increased to 2.392 hectares.

Locals say a five-star or eco-tourism hotel in such a fragile area should not be allowed. Sharavati Valley is already threatened by various infrastructure projects, including hydroelectric projects, dams, roads, railways, etc.

"The valley is being wrecked in the name of development. There has been no takeaway from the Wayanad landslide episode. Moreover, if a development project has been declined once by MoEF&CC, it should not be allowed to reapply for approval with the Ministry or forest department," said a local.

According to a senior official from KFD, the application is yet to reach the department. "Once applied at the Parivesh portal, the application takes a few days before it can reach us. As far as permission for the project is concerned, as per rules, an eco-tourism infrastructure can be developed inside a forest reserve only if it is not permanent and the building does not require laying a foundation. If the applicant has sought permission for a permanent concrete structure, it will be rejected," said the official.

DKS says he is Congress candidate for Channapatna

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said that he is the Congress candidate for Channapatna Assembly bypoll. Earlier too, Shivakumar had said that he is the candidate, irrespective of whoever contests from the party.

The Deputy Chief Minister participated in the Independence Day celebrations and hoisted the national flag in the by-poll bound Channapatna for the first time today, which was seen with political connotations.

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress chief, is neither the Member of Legislative Assembly representing Channapatna nor the in-charge Minister of Ramanagara district, which was recently renamed as Bengaluru South, under which Channapatna taluk comes.

Later in the day, replying to reporters' questions in Nelamangala on the city outskirts as to who will be the Congress candidate from Channapatna, he said, "I'm the candidate." He did not elaborate further.

Shivakumar currently represents the neighbouring Kanakapura segment.

Channapatna bypoll is necessitated as the seat fell vacant following the election of its representative, Janata Dal (Secular) leader and now Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, to Lok Sabha in the recent elections.

Though there were talks earlier that Shivakumar's brother and former Member of Parliament, DK Suresh, who lost from Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha segment, may be fielded by Congress in Channapatna, speculations were rife in the political circles, especially the grand old party, that the Deputy CM may himself enter the fray to avenge his brother's defeat and to re-establish his clout in the region. **–PTI**

Learning to manage waste

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wet waste processing

The report by the Chief Secretary of the Karnataka Government also underlines improvement in the wet waste processing system. Currently, 5,650 TPD of wet waste out of a total of 6,677 TPD across 316 ULBs is being processed.

The report was submitted after NGT, in an order in 2022, had directed the state to set up a centralised single-window mechanism for planning, capacity, building, and monitoring of waste management at the state level.

In the case of dry waste management, 2,257 TPD of dry waste across 316 ULBs is not being processed and this gap will be filled through capacity upgradation under SBM 2.0.

An interdepartmental committee has been constituted to explore ways to ensure coherence across departments involving the preparation of plans and implementation of projects on ground.

Social media videos spark discussion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accountable, others argue that it only fuels tensions and invades the privacy of those involved. BMTC official Prabhakar said, "We can't restrict the uploading of videos on social media. The main issue isn't about giving the remaining balance; it's about ensuring that passengers are not manhandled, which is why we've taken action against the conductor involved."

According to Prabhakar, every year, they receive around 2,000 complaints, ranging from issues with bus timings and seating to cleanliness. "Only one-two cases involve manhandling, and when passengers report these incidents, we require proof and cross-check it with the CCTV footage. While almost all the conductors do give the remaining balance, we also expect passengers to carry coins. In situations where there's no liquid cash available, UPI payments can be used as an alternative," he said.

This problem is not new, but the ways in which it is manifesting and being addressed have evolved. At the Jayanagar bus station, a BMTC official told BM, "In earlier times, these issues were even more severe. There has even been a murder incident over an amount as small as Rs 3. With initiatives like the Shree Shakti Yojana, the frequency of such incidents has reduced, and most passengers these days either adjust or bring the exact change or they get bus passes."

Rammurthy, a passenger traveling from Jayanagar bus station, said that manhandling was unacceptable. "Some conductors handle it calmly, while others are very rude. Not everyone can carry coins or exact amounts from home, but where do the coins that conductors collect go? When the conductors come to the bus, they should bring coins. From my experience, some people do it on purpose—they say they'll give the Rs 5 later but then forget or ignore it, and sometimes, when our stop comes and we have to get off, the bus has to leave, making it very difficult. We end up losing Rs 5."

In another incident on April 17, a Bengaluru man tweeted about losing Rs 5 because a conductor didn't have even Rs 1 as change. His tweet, tagging BMTC, sparked a broader discussion about the ongoing issues with change on buses and the frustrations it causes passengers. Anupriya, another BMTC passenger, added, "It's not always the conductor's fault. Before UPI payments and Aadhaar card passes, it was even more difficult to get the balance amount back. Some of us are introverted and find it hard to ask for our change, fearing a rude response or a confrontation. Settling immediately is much better than asking for change later."

A particular troubling case from March 2024. A 24-year-old woman boarded a BMTC bus on the Bannerghatta National Park to Shivajinagar route, where she was not issued a ticket by the conductor, Honnappa Nagappa Agasar. When she confronted him, the situation escalated, and the conductor assaulted her.

As the city continues to grow, even buses have adopted UPI payment systems as an alternative sustainable solution to this problem.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Malika Banu Abdul Azeez Baig W/o Syed Shohabuddin R/o 12th B cross, PH Colony Tumakuru 572101 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Malika Banu Affidavit Dt.14/08/2024 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

MANJULA.G.A W/o Narayana swamy. M, 48 years, R@ Maruthi Extension, Venkateshwara Hospital Road, Malur Town & Taluk, Kolar District. My Name is MANJULA.G.A as per my Aadhar Card & Pan Card but in My Bank account at **KOTAK SECURITIES LIMITED, Bangalore** my name is wrongly entered as G.A.MANJULA. Hereafter I will be called as **MANJULA.G.A** for all purposes. Same sworn before **M.Jagannatha,** Advocate & Notary, Malur Vide Affidavit Dated: 13/08/2024.

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HEALTH TIP: Regular scalp massage not only relaxes you but also helps improve blood circulation

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HEAVY LIFTING

Is it OK for kids to lift weights? Here's what parents need to know

Exercise is excellent for kids. Kids who exercise are fitter, stronger, and less likely to be overweight or obese. They have better physical and mental health, perform better in the classroom, and are more likely to exercise as an adult.

In short, the more exercise they do now, the better. But what about weight training? If you've ever spent much time in the comments section of social media posts featuring kids lifting weights, you'll know debate rages about whether or not it's safe for children.

Unfortunately, there are still many myths about weight training and kids. The research evidence suggests it's safe, as long as a few common sense precautions are followed.

A common misconception

Lifting weights is an example of "resistance training", which can include bodyweight exercises, weightlifting, jump training, and even sprinting.

A common misconception is that resistance training is bad for kids.

You may have heard it stunts their growth – but this rumour isn't supported by the scientific evidence.

The concerns around stunting growth come from the potential for kids to experience what is known as a "growth plate injury." A growth plate is a section of cartilage at the end of bone that allows the bone to grow. These plates turn into bone sometime during puberty when bone growth stops.

A growth plate injury can lead to early bone closure and a shorter limb length – or a stunting of bone growth.

These injuries can occur in kids, but they most often occur during impact related injuries, either during sport or because of a fall.

In fact, there is no evidence a supervised resistance training program stunts kids' growth or damages growth plates.

The load placed on the body is similar for resistance training as it is for jumping and landing, something all kids do. Moreover, the risk of injury is much lower in resistance training than many other recreational and sport activities.

What are the positives of kids lifting weights?

Resistance training improves children's physical fitness, including their strength, power, speed, agility, and endurance.

Resistance training may also be beneficial for overweight or obese kids who may be unwilling or unable to do aerobic activities such as running and swimming.

Resistance training can also benefit kids' physical and mental health. For example, it can improve their metabolic health, help them manage weight, reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, improve self-esteem, and help academically.

How young is too young to lift weights?

While there is no minimum age to start, participants should be able to follow directions and safety rules. Kids who are ready for sport are generally ready for some type of resistance training.

Both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Australian government recommend kids aged five to 17 get 60 minutes of physical activity per day. They encourage kids to strengthen their muscles and bones at least three days per week.

Lots of exercises increase muscle and bone strength. These include high intensity sport, outside play like climbing, jumping, and running, and of course, resistance training.

This means kids don't have to necessarily lift weights. If they are doing these other types of exercise, they're fine.

However, very few kids are meeting these guidelines.

Australian data show that less than one-quarter (about 23 per cent) of kids aged five to 14 get enough exercise.

That number shrinks to about 6 per cent in older kids aged 15 to 17.

This suggests adding formal exercise to your kid's routine is a good thing.

How should your kids start resistance exercise?

The key is to start slowly and make it fun.

The goal is to get kids to enjoy resistance training and set them up for lifelong success.

For young kids in early primary school, the focus should be on balance, coordination, agility and endurance.

This means playing games involving running and chasing, and activities that develop muscle endurance (like climbing, carrying and pushing things).

You might also want to introduce bodyweight exercises – such as push-ups, pull-ups, and planks – to teach kids how to move their body.

As they transition into upper primary school, kids can do more targeted training. This might include more bodyweight exercises, jump training like hurdling and skipping, and even light training with weights, like squats and bicep curls.

Finally, as they move into high school, they can try more formal weight training exercises, using moderate weights. They might like to try lunges, deadlifts, presses, and rows.

As they become more confident, they can try lifting heavier weights.

What do parents need to know?

Firstly, resistance training has a relatively low risk of injury when properly supervised.

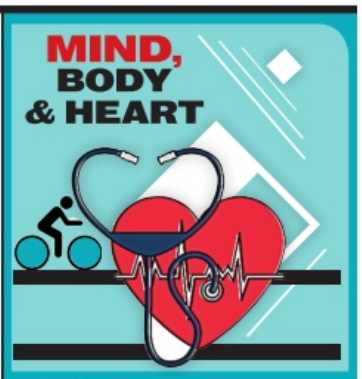
Proper supervision means adults teach kids proper technique, and ensure children don't fall into the trap of trying to impress their peers.

Secondly, start light. In beginners, lifting lighter weights for about ten or 15 repetitions (or "reps") offers similar benefits to lifting heavier weights a few times, and is probably safer.

Lifting lighter weights but doing more reps has another benefit: it allows children to practise and improve their technique.

Lastly, don't be afraid to get involved. Adults benefit greatly from resistance training, too.

(By Hunter Bennett, Grant R Tomkinson and Max Nelson, University of South Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Food for hair

1. Eggs
Eggs are a great source of protein and biotin, which strengthen hair, and accelerate its growth. Biotin is vital for the production of a hair protein called keratin, which is why biotin supplements are often prescribed to patients suffering from hair loss as well.

2. Spinach
This vegetable is loaded with folate, iron, and vitamins A and C, all of which are key to promote hair growth and overall health. A cup (30 grams) of spinach provides 50 per cent of your daily vitamin A.

3. Fatty Fish
Salmon, herring and mackerel are rich in phosphorus and zinc (excellent sources of omega-3 fatty acids), which promote hair growth.

4. Avocados
Avocados are a great example of healthy fats, and an excellent source of vitamin E, known to aid hair growth. Reports suggest that one medium avocado has about 200 grams and provides around 21 per cent of your daily vitamin E requirements.

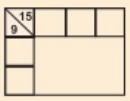
5. Seeds
Seeds have natural oils, which help the scalp maintain the right Ph level. 28 grams of sunflower seeds provides nearly 50 per cent of your daily vitamin E needs. Flax seeds and chia seeds too should be included in the diet.

6. Onion Juice
Onions are rich in sulphur, the element found within amino acids, which are components of protein. Keratin, a form of a protein, is needed for strong hair. When applied to the scalp, onion juice provides extra sulphur, thus supporting hair growth. Sulphur also promotes collagen production, which boosts the production of healthy skin cells.

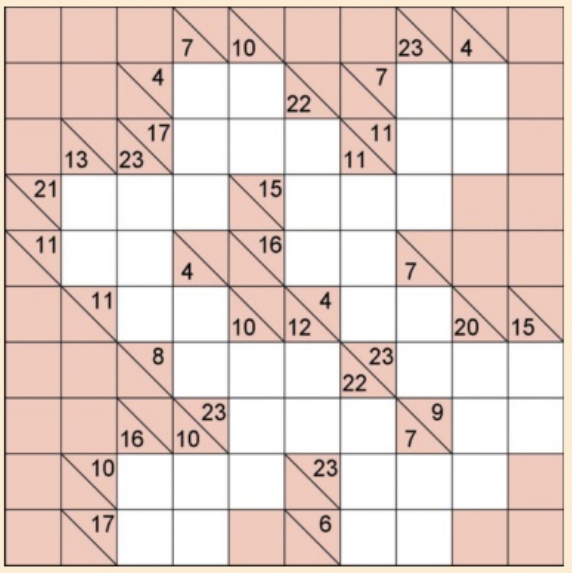
—Femina

Kakuro

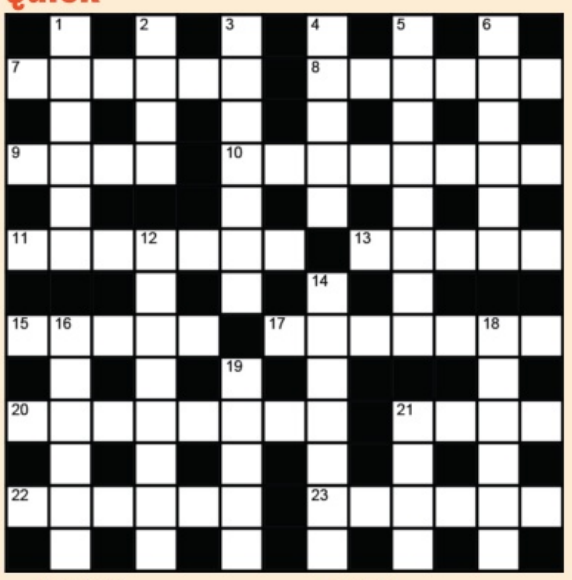
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Fattens up? (6)
8 Makes an effort (6)
9 One of Bangalore's oldest temples (4)
10 Not blemished (8)
11 Pursued surreptitiously (7)
13 Sesame and cumin? (5)
15 Utilizing (5)
17 Colourful parade (7)
20 Collections of records (8)
21 Urban area (4)
22 A type of small fish (6)
23 Foundation author Isaac ___ (6)

DOWN

1 Show off (6)
2 German name–"Mile" anagram? (4)
3 Tells with confidence (7)
4 Harmful micro-organisms (5)
5 Salvage or recover (8)
6 Pay heed (6)
12 Ordinary writing (8)
14 Pawn (4,3)
16 Sea channel (6)
18 Country (6)
19 Declares or promises (5)
21 Voucher (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS T

SX XCUAHX KAQ HJKOB ADMXQ OBX RQXOXCO KP MVPPVUA-JOL.

Linemaro

Can I tie your shoes? I don't want you falling for someone else

Mindchow

We sacrifice health to make money, then sacrifice money to recuperate our health

Joke of the day

The word 'aerobics' came about when the gym instructors got together and said: If we're going to charge $10 an hour, we can't call it jumping up and down

Loop

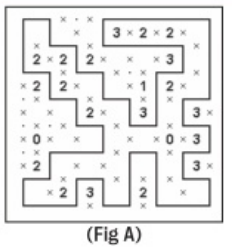
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

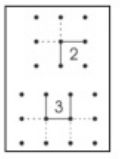
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

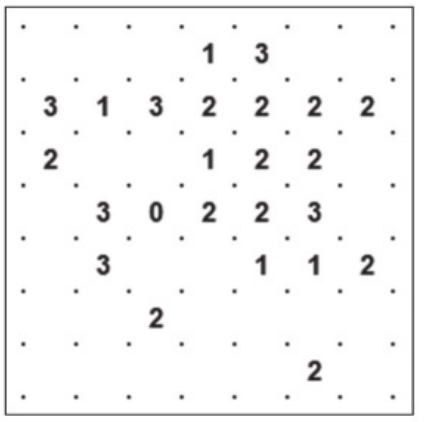
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



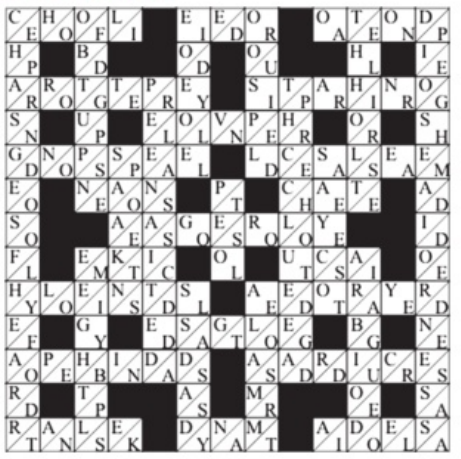
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



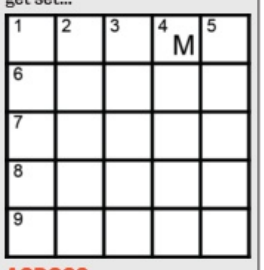
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Am Aga; 6 Appal;
7 L cake; 8 RY Car;
9 To lex

DOWN

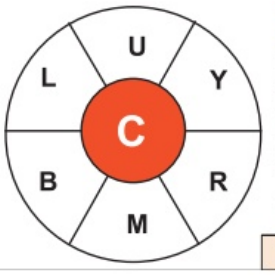
1 A cape; 2 X Gala;
3 Taper; 4 Carom;
5 K Ally

Mensapuzzle

Determine which of the numbers on the right does not belong with the others?

-64
1
27
-8
216
1000
-729
81

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9					3			2
	2	6		1			8	
				8	4		6	
2		1						
	5	3				6	1	
						8		9
	8		4	2				
	1			5		2	4	
4			9					1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

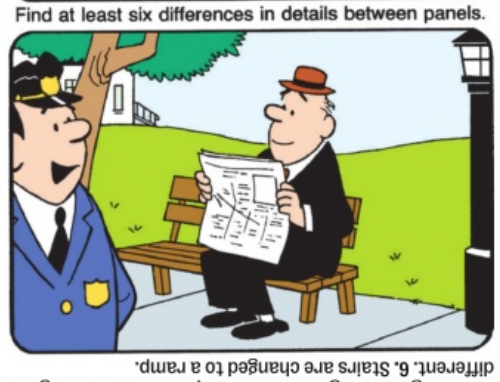
Easy ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 18
2 3 6 7

Medium ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 23
1 7 8 9

Hard ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 2
2 3 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



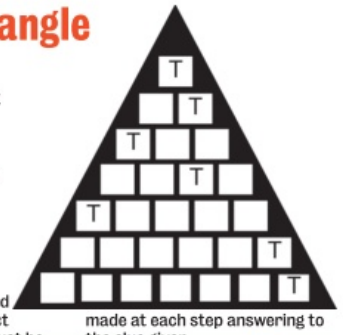
Differences: 1. Bench legs are different. 2. Back of bench is not as high. 3. Badge is lower. 4. Cap is different. 5. Light is different. 6. Stairs are changed to a ramp.

Riddler

Starting with I, add a letter and shuffle to make a new word each time until you reach TRICKLED.

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 tu Brute ...
3 Countdown start
4 Pay with up
5 Spoken for
6 Leg jewellery
7 A warm covering

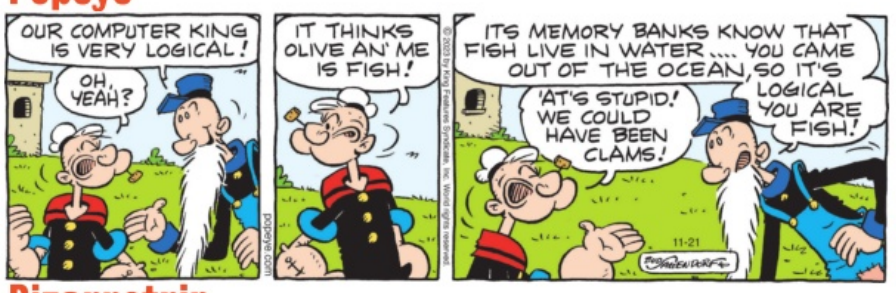


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

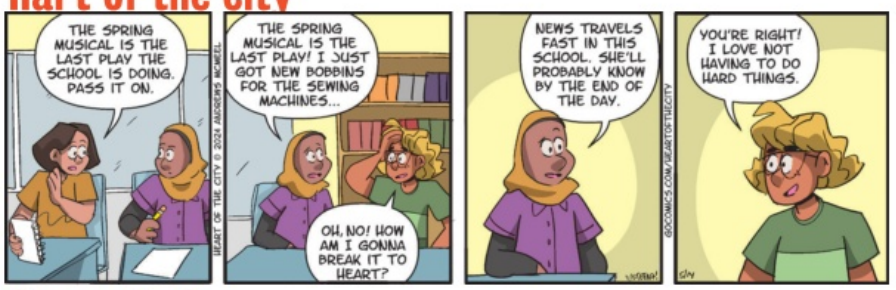
Popeye


OUR COMPUTER KING IS VERY LOGICAL!
OH, YEAH?
IT THINKS OLIVE AN' ME IS FISH!
ITS MEMORY BANKS KNOW THAT FISH LIVE IN WATER .... YOU CAME OUT OF THE OCEAN, SO IT'S LOGICAL YOU ARE FISH!
'AT'S STUPID! WE COULD HAVE BEEN CLAMS!
11-21

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


THE SPRING MUSICAL IS THE LAST PLAY THE SCHOOL IS DOING. PASS IT ON.
THE SPRING MUSICAL IS THE LAST PLAY! I JUST GOT NEW BOBBINS FOR THE SEWING MACHINES...
OH, NO! HOW AM I GONNA BREAK IT TO HEART?
NEWS TRAVELS FAST IN THIS SCHOOL. SHE'LL PROBABLY KNOW BY THE END OF THE DAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT! I LOVE NOT HAVING TO DO HARD THINGS.

Crankshaft

MASON! TO WHAT DO WE OWE?
YOU MEAN OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT I HAPPEN TO BE THE OWNER OF THIS THEATER AND THAT I LIKE TO STOP BY AND CHECK ON IT NOW AND THEN?
VALENTINE
WELL, SURE... IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL OBVIOUSLY ABOUT IT.
IGNORE HIM... GOOD TO SEE YOU, MASON!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your vital force seems to be good; it may help you complete difficult projects easily. Disputes with siblings may be settled, which may boost your relationship with them. You may expand your network after a short work-related trip. You may also help some needy people, which may increase your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with family get-togeth-ers; you may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money on buying some artefacts and other things that will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. Your elder's blessings will help you. You may be patient and regain your focus; it may help you achieve your goals. There may be some balance between expenditures and savings, which may boost your savings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, some dissatis-faction may come into your mind; you may feel lazy and dull, which affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your internal power may make you happy; you may make short-term gains in terms of investments. You may have a good relationship with your boss, and you may have some pro-motions. Your prestige in society may be increased. You may also expect some work-related travel.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Your perfor-mance in the work may be improved. You may get a high posi-tion after your hard work. You may also meet some influential people who may give you a good direc-tion to improve your life. You may manage your domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be happy, and things may be some-how better. You may plan to visit some religious place; it may give you inner strength. You may also donate some money to a religious place or to charity. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Couples may find a suitable match. Singles are likely to find their soulmate.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel alone; you may find yourself in the self-analysis process. You may expect some changes in your position. Your patience may be tested many times. You may be arrogant towards the people around you, and it may affect your personal life. You are advised to avoid adventure tours.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. You may bring some artefacts or household items to renovate your house. You may plan to start a new business as a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel as well. You will have faith in your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss, and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promo-tions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incen-tives for your work as well. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, kids' education may make you busy; you may plan for their higher stud-ies as well. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may want to update yourself and make some plans for higher studies to get pro-moted in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Natives related to education, consulting, and banking will do better.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dissat-isfied; you may not be able to take on your responsibilities. Your investments may cause you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before put-ting your signature on them. Your elders' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house; it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

KIDZONE

S Aparna,
12 Years,
Air Force School

Diksha
Dhruv K,
6 Years,
Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(2^(1/2) . (2^(2)^1/3))) . (2^1/6)) / 2^(1/3)
= (2^(1/2) . 2^(2/3) . 2^(1/6)) / 2^(1/3)
= (2^4/3) / (2^1/3) = 2^1 = 2

BULL'S EYE
club, crumb, curly
GRUMBLY, curb, curl,

RIDDLER
One solution is I, ID,
RID, DIRE, CIDER,
CREDIT, TRICKED,
TRICKLED

FAST FIVE

E	X	T	O	L
C	A	R	R	Y
A	L	E	C	K
P	A	P	A	L
A	G	A	M	A

STRIKE OUT

T	A	S	K		Y	A	M		I	D	E	S		
R		T		S		R		E		S				
A	P	H	I	D	S		A	D	D	U	C	E		
E		G		E	A	G	L	E		G		N		
H	O	I	S	T	S		A	D	O	R	E	D		
F		E	T	C		L	U	S	A		E			
O			O		S		C		Y		D			
E		E	O	N		T		C	A	T		A		
G	O	S	P	E	L		L	E	S	S	E	E		
N		U		E	L	V	E	R		R		H		
A	R	T	E	R	Y		S	P	R	I	N	G		
H		B		D		U		H		I				
C	O	O	L		I	D	O		A	T	O	P		

QUICK

		T		D		S		W		T		N		
	M	I	N		N	O	W		A	S	I	M	O	V
		A		A		O		P		H		I		
	A	R	C	H	I	V	E	S		C	I	T	Y	
		T		G		A		T				A		
	U	S	I	N	G		P	A	G	E	A	N	T	
				O		S		C		V				
	S	T	A	L	K	E	D		S	E	E	D	S	
		N				R		S		I		N		
	B	U	L	L		U	N	M	A	R	K	E	D	
	A		I		S		R		T		T			
	P	L	U	M	P	S		E	X	E	R	T	S	
	F	E		A		G		R		A				

MENSA PUZZLE
81 does not belong with the others. It is the only number that is not a cube, the result of a number multiplied by itself three times.

QUOTE UNCODE
We excuse our sloth under the pretext of difficulty.

SUDOKU

4	3	2	9	6	8	5	7	1
6	1	9	3	5	7	2	4	8
5	8	7	4	2	1	3	9	6
7	6	4	1	3	5	8	2	9
8	5	3	7	9	2	6	1	4
2	9	1	8	4	6	7	3	5
1	7	5	2	8	4	9	6	3
3	2	6	5	1	9	4	8	7
9	4	8	6	7	3	1	5	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, Et, Ten, Ante,
Taken, Anklet,
Blanket.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 6 + 7 + 3 = 18
Medium
8 + 7 – 1 + 9 = 23
Hard
3 + 5 – 2 / 3 = 2

KAKURO

		7	10			23	4	
	4	1	3		22	8	6	1
13	2	7	8	11	3	9	8	3
17	1	2	4	3	9	7	1	5
21	8	9	4	15	5	1	9	7
11	5	6	8	16	9	7	3	6
15	6	8	9	23	7	6	8	9
	7	2	1	23	8	6	9	3
	9	8	6	10	4	2	1	7
		9	5	1	3	4	2	8

Volume No 17, Issue No 164 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

No Yeoh— Oscar-winner Michelle Yeoh will not be part of 'Avatar: Fire and Ash', says director James Cameron, but "she will be in 4 and 5"

Coping mechanism

Actress Ileana D'Cruz on Wednesday revealed what she does when she misses her husband Michael Dolan, and it is one of the cutest things on the internet today.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Ileana, who has 16.2 million followers on the photo sharing application, dropped a video in which we can see Ileana recording a video of her husband while they are having a meal.

It is captioned as: "When you miss the man coz he working late so you look through all the lovely videos you got of him".

The 37-year-old actress also shared another goofy video with her husband which seems to be from some vacation. It has an 'infinity' symbol as the caption. The couple had tied the knot in May 2023, and welcomed their first child, a son named Koa Phoenix Dolan, in August 2023.

On the work front, she made her film debut in 2006 with the Telugu romance film 'Devadasu', directed by YVS Chowdary, and starring Ram. She has been a part of movies like 'Pokiri', 'Kedi', 'Khatarnak', 'Rakhi', 'Munna', 'Bhale Dongalu', 'Kick', 'Shakti', 'Nenu Naa Rakshasi', 'Devudu Chesina Manushulu', and 'Nanban'.

Ileana had featured in 2012 period romantic comedy 'Barfi!', written and directed by Anurag Basu, starring Ranbir Kapoor, and Priyanka Chopra. She was also a part of 2013 action comedy 'Phata Poster Nikhla Hero' directed by Rajkumar Santoshi. The film featured Shahid Kapoor. Other Hindi films which starred Ileana are-- 'Main Tera Hero', 'Happy Ending', 'Rustom', 'Mubarakan', 'Baadshaho', 'Raid', 'Pagalpanti', 'The Big Bull', and 'Tera Kya Hoga Lovely'. She last appeared in the romantic comedy movie 'Do Aur Do Pyaar', directed by Shirsha Guha Thakurta, in her directorial debut and produced by Sameer Nair, Deepak Segal, Tanuj Garg, Atul Kasbekar and Swati Iyer Chawla under the banner Applause Entertainment and Ellipsis Entertainment Production. It features Vidya Balan, Pratik Gandhi, and Sendhil Ramamurthy. She has been a part of music videos like -- 'Pehli Dafa', and 'Sab Gazab'. —ETimes

IN THE SHADOW

Jacqueline Fernandez looking to quash her involvement in Sukesh Chandrasekhar money laundering case

Kick actor Jacqueline Fernandez has been embroiled in deep controversy since the last couple of years, due to her alleged involvement with conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar, who has been accused of various money laundering cases. Even though Jacqueline has vehemently denied her involvement with Sukesh, the latter not only acknowledges their relationship, but has also written multiple love letters to the actor, from jail.

Earlier, reports said that Sukesh had showered Jacqueline with exotic gifts in their happier days, including a luxury yacht on her birthday. Now, the Murder 2 actress' plea in the Sukesh Chandrasekhar money laundering case is set to be heard again, as the Delhi High Court has scheduled it for final arguments. The actress has been entangled in this high-profile case since a 2022 chargesheet named her. She has been actively seeking to extricate herself from the legal complications related to her alleged involvement with Sukesh Chandrasekhar, and it appears there may be some progress.

According to ANI, Fernandez is seeking to have the money laundering case chargesheet against her quashed. The High Court has directed the parties to submit key short arguments, with the matter listed for September 18. Over the past 2-3 years, the Enforcement Directorate has summoned Fernandez for questioning nearly six times.

The actress has been interrogated about her alleged involvement in the cheating case involving high-profile individuals like Aditi Singh, wife of former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh, with the amount involved being close to Rs 200 crore. The charges against Chandrasekhar, as per ED, suggest he used "proceeds of crime" to buy gifts for Fernandez. — ETimes

In a romcom

Fans are all excited after Abhay Deol dropped a thrilling announcement about his next venture. The actor took to Instagram to reveal he's teaming up with Australian star Natasha Bassett, known for her role in Elvis, for an international project.

The post showcased a news snippet about their upcoming romantic comedy, 'Don't You Be My Neighbor', directed by Harry Grewal. It looks like Abhay is about to bring a new dose of charm to the big screen!"Very excited to announce this project, this script took me back to the late 80's and early 90's era of the RomCom. Excited to work with the lovely and talented Natasha Bassett and director Harry Grewal," read the captions.

Preity Zinta responded to the post with warm wishes, saying, "All the best. Looking forward to it."

Renowned director Zoya Akhtar also expressed her enthusiasm, commenting, "Yay! How lovely."Don't You Be My Neighbor" will explore the unique bond between Jay (Abhay Deol) and Emily (Natasha Bassett), who have differing views on love and life. The film will follow their journey as they navigate their contrasting beliefs and experiences, opening up to new possibilities. According to Deadline, principal photography is set to start next month around Seattle, US. — ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Shooting begins

The muhurat function of Maddane was held at a temple on Monday. Satish Kumar debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with this movie. Prominent personalities, including producers K Manju, Ramesh Yadav, and Kaddipudi Chandru, graced the function. Nihal Raj is the hero of the movie bankrolled by Ranjana M Kumavath under the Panthers Creative Cinemas banner.

Director Satish Kumar said Maddane is about a village and a forest. "We have decided to shoot the major portion of the movie in and around Chikmagalur. My wife is the producer for this movie. I am a martial artist who has a martial arts training school in Bengaluru," said Kumar.

He said he has participated in martial arts competitions and won a few medals. "I have been watching Kannada movies for the last three decades. My dream was to become a director. I am happy to get the chance," he said.

Expressing gratitude to director and producer for giving him the chance to play the lead in Maddane, actor Nihal Raj said he had acted in Kannada movies Rana and Vishnupriya bankrolled by K Manju. "I am happy to see K Manju as one of the guests for my maiden movie as a hero. I will not forget his support and encouragement," said Nihal.

Celebrating 50 days

Producer Mahantesh Cholachagudd is excited about celebrating 50 days screening of his maiden movie Desai at Vasavi Theater in Bagalkot. The movie arrived in 88 theaters across the state on June 21. It was successfully screened for four weeks in Bengaluru and other cities.

"I am very happy with the screening of Desai for 50 days at Vasavi Theater in Bagalkot. I, apart from bankrolling the movie, play the role of a coach in the movie. I am contemplating releasing the movie on the OTT platform shortly," said Mahantesh.

The movie is about a family that has a surname Desai and it revolves around one of the family members who decide to ensure harmony among the family members who are quarrelling among themselves. "The story is related to Bagalkot district. The shooting of the movie was held at historic and important locations of Bagalkot. I want to thank the people of Bagalkot for supporting the movie Desai," said Mahantesh.

The movie has Praveen Kumar and Raadya in the lead roles while Orata Prashant played the villain. The other cast are Cheluvaraju, Madhusudhan Rao, Kalyani, Harini, and Manjunath Hegde.